



In April of 2018, Chinese-owned Chinese Rail Road Company (CRRC) will start manufacturing the Orange cars at CRRC's new \$95 million factory on Page Boulevard in East Springfield. Sometime at midyear the factory will start making MBTA Red Line cars.

CRRC now has 59 employees working in Springfield, said spokeswoman Lydia Rivera. That includes 20 union assemblers and test technicians who traveled to China for training in 2017. The other 39 are managers, supervisors, engineers and finance, purchasing, IT and human resources personnel.

CRRC plans to hire approximately 45 additional employees at the Springfield facility in 2018, most all of them electrical and mechanical assemblers and test technicians. More hiring is expected later as the production crew ramps up to a total of 150. The company has said production jobs will pay \$55,000 to \$60,000 a year.

At 204,000 square feet, the CRRC factory is big enough for three and a half football fields. CRRC built it over the past two years at the site of an old Westinghouse manufacturing plant. The CRRC plant is the largest industrial investment in Springfield in generations.

In 2014, CRRC received a \$566 million contract from the MBTA to build 152 Orange Line cars and 252 Red Line cars at the Page Boulevard site in Springfield. In December 2016, the state upped the order with another 120 new Red Line cars, with production set to begin in June 2022 at a cost of \$277 million.

The state went without federal funding on the cars so that it could mandate that they be assembled in Massachusetts. The idea was to foster the industry of making rail cars in Massachusetts.

